

### ABSTRACT

A data store query system includes a data store that stores a collection of data, a sorted result buffer, and a query interface operable to receive a limit and order query and to identify data in the data store that satisfies the limit and order query using the sorted result  
5 buffer. Additionally, a method for satisfying limit and order queries includes receiving a limit and order query that includes a limit criteria specifying a maximum number of records for a result set of records satisfying the limit and order query and an order criteria, filling a sorted result buffer with records from a data store, and iteratively reformulating the limit and order query and updating the sorted result buffer until the sorted result buffer contains the  
10 result set of records satisfying the limit and order query.

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